

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2014

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1175**

---

**Introduced by Senator Walters**

February 20, 2014

---

An act to amend Section 35401.5 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1175, as amended, Walters. Vehicles: length limitations: motorsports.

Existing law generally prohibits a vehicle from exceeding a length of 40 feet, and a combination of vehicles from exceeding a total length of 65 feet, with various specific exceptions. Existing law, until January 1, 2016, exempts from these provisions a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor semitrailer combination with a kingpin to rearmost axle measurement limit of not more than 46 feet, a trailer length of not more than 56 feet, and used exclusively or primarily in connection with motorsports, as defined.

This bill would ~~delete the January 1, 2016, date of repeal, thereby making these provisions operative indefinitely.~~ *extend the operation of that exemption to January 1, 2018.* The bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 35401.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended  
2 to read:

1 35401.5. (a) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck  
2 tractor and semitrailer, or of a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer,  
3 is not subject to the limitations of Sections 35400 and 35401, when  
4 operating on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of  
5 Interstate and Defense Highways or when using those portions of  
6 federal-aid primary system highways that have been qualified by  
7 the United States Secretary of Transportation for that use, or when  
8 using routes appropriately identified by the Department of  
9 Transportation or local authorities as provided in subdivision (c)  
10 or (d), if all of the following conditions are met:

11 (1) The length of the semitrailer in exclusive combination with  
12 a truck tractor does not exceed 48 feet. A semitrailer not more than  
13 53 feet in length shall satisfy this requirement when configured  
14 with two or more rear axles, the rearmost of which is located 40  
15 feet or less from the kingpin or when configured with a single axle  
16 which is located 38 feet or less from the kingpin. For purposes of  
17 this paragraph, a motortruck used in combination with a semitrailer,  
18 when that combination of vehicles is engaged solely in the  
19 transportation of motor vehicles, camper units, or boats, is  
20 considered to be a truck tractor.

21 (2) Neither the length of the semitrailer nor the length of the  
22 trailer when simultaneously in combination with a truck tractor  
23 exceeds 28 feet 6 inches.

24 (b) Subdivisions (b), (d), and (e) of Section 35402 do not apply  
25 to combinations of vehicles operated subject to the exemptions  
26 provided by this section.

27 (c) Combinations of vehicles operated pursuant to subdivision  
28 (a) may also use highways not specified in subdivision (a) that  
29 provide reasonable access to terminals and facilities for purposes  
30 limited to fuel, food, lodging, and repair when that access is  
31 consistent with the safe operation of the combinations of vehicles  
32 and when the facility is within one road mile of identified points  
33 of ingress and egress to or from highways specified in subdivision  
34 (a) for use by those combinations of vehicles.

35 (d) The Department of Transportation or local authorities may  
36 establish a process whereby access to terminals or services may  
37 be applied for upon a route not previously established as an access  
38 route. The denial of a request for access to terminals and services  
39 shall be only on the basis of safety and an engineering analysis of  
40 the proposed access route. If a written request for access has been

properly submitted and has not been acted upon within 90 days of receipt by the department or the appropriate local agency, the access shall be deemed automatically approved. Thereafter, the route shall be deemed open for access by all other vehicles of the same type regardless of ownership. In lieu of processing an access application, the Department of Transportation or local authorities with respect to highways under their respective jurisdictions may provide signing, mapping, or a listing of highways as necessary to indicate the use of specific routes as terminal access routes. For purposes of this subdivision, “terminal” means either of the following:

(1) A facility where freight originates, terminates, or is handled in the transportation process.

(2) A facility where a motor carrier maintains operating facilities.

(e) Nothing in subdivision (c) or (d) authorizes state or local agencies to require permits of terminal operators or to charge terminal operators fees for the purpose of attaining access for vehicles described in this section.

(f) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), the limitations of access specified in that subdivision do not apply to licensed carriers of household goods when directly enroute to or from a point of loading or unloading of household goods, if travel on highways other than those specified in subdivision (a) is necessary and incidental to the shipment of the household goods.

(g) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 35400 and 35401, a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor semitrailer combination with a kingpin to rearmost axle measurement limit of not more than 46 feet, a trailer length of not more than 56 feet, and used exclusively or primarily in connection with motorsports, may operate on the routes identified in subdivision (a) as well as on any other routes authorized for that purpose by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol. As used in this subdivision, “motorsports” means an event, and all activities leading up to that event, including, but not limited to, administration, testing, practice, promotion, and merchandising, that is sanctioned under the auspices of the member organizations of the Automobile Competition Committee for the United States.

1     (2) *The authority conferred by this subdivision remains operative*  
2     *only until January 1, 2018.*

3     (h) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

4     (1) In authorizing the use of 53-foot semitrailers, it is the intent  
5     of the Legislature to conform with Section 31111(b)(1)(C) of Title  
6     49 of the United States Code by permitting the continued use of  
7     semitrailers of the dimensions as those that were in actual and legal  
8     use on December 1, 1982, and does not intend this action to be a  
9     precedent for future increases in the parameters of any of those  
10    vehicles that would adversely affect the turning maneuverability  
11    of vehicle combinations.

12    (2) In authorizing the department to issue special transportation  
13    permits for motorsports, it is the intent of the Legislature to  
14    conform with Section 31111(b)(1)(F) of Title 49 of the United  
15    States Code. It is also the intent of the Legislature that this action  
16    not be a precedent for future increases in the distance from the  
17    kingpin to the rearmost axle of semitrailers and trailers that would  
18    adversely affect the turning maneuverability of vehicle  
19    combinations.